

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 3rd APRIL 2017 AT 7PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET, OTTERY ST MARY

PRESENT	Mayor	Councillor Dobson (Town Ward)
	Councillors	Giles, Holmes, Pang, Faithfull, Edwards and Carter (Town Ward) Gori (North Ward) Pratt (Tipton St John Ward) together with the Clerk
	Other Persons Present	EDDC Cllr Phil Twiss, County Cllr Claire Wright PCSO Maria Clapp, 1 member of the public and two members of the press

It was agreed that Cllr Wright should give her report at the beginning of the meeting as she had to leave early. She advised that a quote had been obtained from Tom Green at EDDC's Street Scene for replacement fencing to be erected between Thorne Farm Way and the bridge which appeared to be acceptable. The difficulties in the removal of litter at this location, due to health and safety issues, could be addressed if steps were put into the bank, thus ensuring the safety of the operatives in collecting the litter was not compromised. DCC would not remove the graffiti on the strut of the bridge as it was not regarded as `offensive`. Due to the pending local elections Cllr Wright's Locality Budget had been suspended. She therefore enquired whether the Council would be prepared to incur the costs of the removal of the graffiti. The Mayor advised he would consider the situation and get back to her. The Ottery Hospital Red Line event to protest against the proposed hospital closure had been a success. Cllr Wright was emphatic that the hospital building had to be retained at all costs.

EDDC Cllr Phil Twiss, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services gave a presentation about `Enabling` and provided information on the roles of volunteers with regards to the delivery of specific services and the benefits of volunteering. A question and answer session followed at which various issues were raised including the vetting of volunteers. Cllr Twiss was thanked by the Mayor for his informative presentation.

PRAYER

The Clerk read the Council Prayer

17/04/01

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Bartlett and Harding

17/04/02

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllrs Pratt and Giles declared personal interests in Item 13 as they were trustees of the Heritage Society

17/04/03

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were none

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17/04/04

TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

It was agreed that Philip Algar could comment later in the meeting, in respect of Ottery Hospital. Meanwhile Mr Algar wished to thank the Council for providing the new library facility and acknowledged the hard work and effort involved by the Council in bringing the project to fruition. He was of the view that any criticism of the project should be ignored. He hoped that the new West Hill Parish Council would co-operate with the Council and others, to combat the Local Enterprise Partnership and other similar organisations which he considered were opposed to local democratic accountability. He concluded by stating that although he was a resident of West Hill he would still continue to take an interest in matters pertaining to Ottery

17/04/05

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes of the of the **Meeting of 6th March 2017** (*minute refs 17/03/01 – 17/03/37*), were presented, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the following wording at 17/03/13 - Page 4, after the words `Kings School` insert `Sports Field at Salston Corner`

The Deputy Mayor advised that the meeting was being recorded

17/04/06

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of **20th March 2017** (*minute refs: P/17/03/01-P/17/03/08*) were presented, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the deletion of the word `not` after the number `2` in the Council's comments in respect of planning application 17/0405/OUT – Page 3

17/04/07

TO RECEIVE THE POLICE REPORT MARCH 2017

Recorded crimes for March 2017 stands at 17, this compares to 11 for the same month last year.

Cumulative crime stands at 251.

These incidents include.....

Distribution of indecent photographs.

Assault.

2 incidents of harassment.

Shop lifting at the Co-Op.

Dog causing injury. Incident happened in December, only just reported due to another unconnected incident.

Extended dog bo order, with Dog Warden.

Lady walking dog in Land of Canaan Park, was asked by 4 youths if they could stroke the dog. She said "no" Boys didn't take kindly to that & followed her swearing & saying that the dog should be shot. They followed her, until another member of public appeared.

Threatening/ insulting behaviour. Re parking on a new estate. Civil.

2 make off without payments at the garage.

Higher Metcombe, vehicle parked outside a farm had the window smashed & a handbag stolen.

Alansway, car accessories stolen from the yard. Large items taken, therefore would have needed a vehicle.

Taleford area, 2 rolls of lead stolen from back garden.

Theft of a pedal cycle left at Tipton St John School area.

Theft of a motor vehicle, which had broken down. Been there since 5th March.

Criminal damage to a vehicle belonging to West Hill Body Repairs. Scratch full length of the vehicle down to the metal.

Other information...

Hopefully things are progressing with the Thorne Farm Way fencing. Tom Green has been down with Claire Wright to see how best to progress with this.

Just thinking! Any news Claire, on the double yellow lines for Slade Rd etc. Another year has passed!

.....Mayor's Initials

Sergeant Richard Stonecliffe is the Sergeant for Ottery St Mary. He is based at Exmouth. He will come over from time to time to catch up with us. We can also go over to see him if required.

Maria Clapp PCSO 30018

Community Support Officer

PCSO Clapp enquired whether the fence panels which had been removed at Thorne Farm Way could be used at Claremont Field. The Mayor advised that it was his understanding that the yellow lines proposed for Slade Road should be in situ this year

17/04/08

TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EDDC AND DCC COUNCILLORS

Cllr Giles

He reported that at last week's Scrutiny Committee meeting at EDDC, the Chairman of the Honiton Hospital League of Friends and the Honiton Dementia Action Alliance had asked the Committee to consider the current state of services in the district. This request was as a result of the imminent closure of 'the Haven', Honiton, run by MIND and the transfer of the East Devon Community Mental Health Team from Honiton to Exeter. Cllr Giles advised that this item would be included on the May agenda of the Committee. In response to Cllr Pang's concerns about the perceived lack of involvement by EDDC re the hospital closures in the district, Cllr Giles advised that he had provided regular updates as to the course of action EDDC was taking and its responses to the CCG. Cllr Giles had written to Rob Sainsbury from the CCG requesting him to attend a future Scrutiny Committee meeting with an update and also to advise as to the CCG's proposals for 'Care in the Community'. He also advised that modern day slavery which was very a major problem in East Devon had been discussed at the Committee meeting.

Cllr Faithfull

He reported that although EDDC would not be charging the Tar Barrels organisation for clear up operations following the event for 2017, that this charge could not be ruled out in future years. He also queried whether thanks had been given to EDDC for the efficient clean up operations following Tar Barrels in previous years. The Mayor advised that a letter of thanks was sent each year, as a matter of course. Cllr Giles also advised that he personally thanked Street Scene. Cllr Faithfull also expressed concern that the Council had lost its Parishes Together funding this year, as no claim had been made. He also advised that he had attended a recent EDDC meeting at which modern day slavery had been discussed, which item he found to be disturbing, particularly as the problem was occurring in the district

Cllr Carter:-

He advised that the East Devon Villages Plan was out for consultation until 10th May. Workshops would be announced shortly with regards to recycling, as the second phase would be rolled out in June. EDDC's DMC was extremely busy with planning matters. He also mentioned the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan

17/04/09

OTTERY ST MARY HOSPITAL – UPDATE

Philip Algar expressed concern that at the Red Line event that the attendees had been asked to move away from the outside reception into the rain, on no less than three occasions, which he found to be unreasonable. He questioned as to why this had been the case as this had not occurred at a previous protest event. PCSO Clapp advised that she had been asked by a nurse at the hospital to move on the persons present. If she had not done so the nurse concerned was intending to contact the police. Cllr Giles thought it was wholly unnecessary for this course of action to be taken, as the people present were there to save the hospital. It was suggested that either a GP or the Practice Manager from the local surgery attend a future Council meeting to advise as to what the local GPs views were on the future plans for the hospital. A request was also made for Rob Sainsbury from the CCG to attend a future Council meeting with an update. After much debate and discussion it was suggested that Cllr Pang (and any other interested parties) come back to the Mayor about the format of a proposed meeting which he would consider

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17/04/10

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – UPDATE

An updated report had been circulated. The end date for the public part of the consultation was 30th June 2017. Drop in sessions were being arranged during June. It was understood that the further costs that this part of the project would incur, were well within budget

17/04/11

REGENERATION PROJECT – UPDATE

Cllr Pratt advised he had written to Richard Cohen with an outline of the projects being considered. One of the priorities to consider was road safety and the safety of pedestrians in the town. With this in mind the relocation of the bus stop in the main square, to the Land of Canaan was being discussed. A bus shelter and seating would be required and approximately 21 parking spaces may be lost if this venue was used. Alternative sites for the bus stop also being considered, were Sainsburys and Lloyds Bank. Cllr Giles expressed his thanks to Cllr Pratt and everyone else involved with the project for all their hard work to date. However he expressed concern as to the suggestion of relocating the bus stop to the Land of Canaan which may pose difficulties for the elderly, disabled and mothers with young children in pushchairs etc. Cllr Faithfull also expressed similar concerns. It was understood that Kings School pupils had expressed a wish to design a bandstand for the Land of Canaan. A local builder may be interested in this project. Cllr Pratt concluded that he was waiting for EDDC and DCC to come back to him, in order to progress the project

17/04/12

HANDY MAN AND UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF EDDC`S PROPOSALS TO CARRY OUT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Mayor advised that the provision of a handyman was being investigated as a priority, as the Council required a person to carry out its odd jobs as councillors did not always have the time available and the Council`s regular contractor had retired.. He suggested that a retired tradesman may be a suitable applicant and working on a self employed basis would be preferred. There were difficulties in sourcing a contractor to carry out grass cutting for this year. EDDC may be able to carry out the work and this was being considered. Once Cllr Bartlett returned from holiday the handyman and grounds maintenance issues would be further discussed.

17/04/13

TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE HEADS OF TERMS IN RESPECT OF A PROPOSED LEASE OF THE OLD FLEXTON BY THE COUNCIL TO THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Mayor advised that the Council had been subjected to some criticism due to the lack of public consultation regarding the proposed use of the former Nat West Bank as a library and that consultation should be considered as necessary with regards to the future letting of the premises. The revised Heads of Terms (‘HOTS’) regarding the leasing of the Old Flexton to the Heritage Society were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that the HOTS be approved and accepted subject to public consultation taking place regarding the proposed use of the premises. It was suggested that the Council should run the consultation together with the Heritage Society and any other organisations who may wish to lease the premises

17/04/14

FOOTPATHS - UPDATE

A report had been received from Kirby James regarding the condition of Footpath 24 which had been e-mailed to all councillors. Cllr Edwards read a summary of the situation as prepared by her husband Leigh Edwards who was heavily involved with FP 24. Mr Edwards advised that no one including the Environment Agency (‘EA’) or the landowner had any obligations to move or hold the river in its current position. Moving gravel was not acceptable to the EA but they would allow DCC to continue with soft engineering. After much debate it was agreed to invite Ben Johnston from the Environment Agency to a future Council meeting (not the May meeting) to talk to the Council about the the erosion problem. Cllr Edwards indicated that if steps were not taken to address the problems and FP24 became eroded, then potentially the only footpath link between the town and

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Tipton St John could be lost forever. Thanks were given to Cllr Faithfull and his team for their time and commitment in working to get the paths back in shape. Currently the Council was holding £1529.35 in its bank account for footpath expenditure. Cllr Pratt spoke about issues relating to footpath 46 and the Metcombe Brook and concluded that the EA was difficult to deal with.

17/04/15

TELEPHONE BOXES AND PARISHES TOGETHER FUNDING REQUEST

Axmouth Parish Council were looking at converting their red phone box into a community library and had enquired if any other councils were considering a similar idea, and if so, would they consider joining with them as a future Parishes Together project. There was some discussion but the Council did not wish to participate at this time

17/04/16

DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

The Memorandum of Understanding had now been completed. The Council had paid for the cost of the defibrillator, using funds provided by Rotary and it was waiting for the defibrillator to be placed outside of the new library. Cllr Pratt reported that a defibrillator had now been installed at Tipton St John and he had received training on using the equipment and could effectively save lives

17/04/17

QUEEN'S SAPPHIRE JUBILEE – CELEBRATIONS PROPOSED FOR 10TH JUNE BY ROTARY AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE COUNCIL WISHED TO PARTICIPATE

Rotary was organising a duck race and had enquired as to whether the Council would be organising events for the Jubilee. The Mayor was of the view that the matter should be passed to Phyllis Baxter to see whether she wished to get involved and if so whether she was willing to organise 'something' in conjunction with Rotary. Cllr Gori confirmed that she would be willing to assist Mrs Baxter if necessary

17/04/18

GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN

The matter had been raised at previous meetings however the Council did not have a collective comment to submit and suggested that individual councillors could submit their own comments if necessary

17/04/19

CONSIDERATION OF AIR AMBULANCE REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS LANDING SITE IN OTTERY – DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

It was understood that the football club had now signed a long lease which gave security with regards to the land issues. The total cost of the works to provide a landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance was £978.57 plus Vat. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would contribute the sum of £744.77 towards the works. It was understood that the Air Ambulance would pay the installation costs of £233.80

17/04/20

EDDC STREET TRADING CONSULTATION

Details of proposals to change the rules for street trading throughout East Devon had been e-mailed to all councillors. It was agreed that this item would be considered at the next Planning Committee Meeting

17/04/21

EDDC HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

All councillors had been e-mailed the relevant information. The Review being carried out by EDDC, was to ensure that its policy complied with government best practice guidance and would provide protection for the public when using taxi services. Consultation responses could be submitted to EDDC up to 9.00am on 24th April

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17/04/22

NEW LIBRARY/INFORMATION CENTRE -

The opening day had been extremely successful. The membership of the library had substantially increased and the amount of books being borrowed by members had doubled. Cllr Gori advised that all events proposed to take place in the library should be fully supported to ensure the library's longevity. Complaints had been raised as to the small desk allocated for the Information Centre and the Mayor advised he would be raising this issue with the relevant person shortly in an attempt to address it. A meeting with the Information Centre volunteers had taken place recently. More volunteers were required and it was understood that a couple of persons had expressed an interest and their details had been passed to Mrs Baxter. The toilets should be completed within a week.

17/04/23

UPDATE SURRENDER OF LEASE RE OLD LIBRARY – APPROVAL FOR DEED TO BE SIGNED ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

The Deed of Surrender had been e-mailed to councillors. The Mayor advised that following the e-mail sent, an additional amendment was required to the Deed which stated:- *The Tenant agrees that it will pay to the Landlord the costs of for the laying of a new carpet in that part of the Property as is shown edged red on the attached plan (of a type and to a standard acceptable to the Landlord, acting reasonably) up to a maximum the total cost of £1,577.45 (plus +VAT, if any), on presentation of an invoice from the landlord accompanied by the invoice from its supplier as evidence that the work has been completed'. After some discussion It was **RESOLVED** that the deed be signed on behalf of the Council with the amendment incorporated*

17/04/24

TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2017 COUNCIL SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS AS TABLED

The March 2017 Council Schedules were presented by Cllr Gori showing £34704.99 (incl. VAT) for Council expenditure and £56.21 (inc Vat) for TIC expenditure. It was **RESOLVED** that the schedules be approved and they were signed by the Mayor

17/04/25

ANY MATTERS OF URGENCY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE MAYOR (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- i. Simon Benn had enquired as to whether the Council would be interested in him organising outdoor film shows in May and August in Ottery with the proceeds going to the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. The idea was met with great enthusiasm by members. It was agreed that the Mayor should meet Mr Benn to progress further and consider a suitable venue
- ii. Section 106 funds of £13,640 had been awarded by EDDC in respect of purchasing play equipment for West Hill Play Park. The money had to be spent by 30th March 2018. As the S106 Agreement was between EDDC and the Council, the Council had been advised by Sulina Tallack the S106 Officer, that the Council would still need to progress the paperwork

17/04/26

REPORTS BY MAYOR AND CLERK

There were none

17/04/27

TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION AND ANY LATE CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been tabled.

A letter had been e-mailed to all councillors regarding a mobile phone app called `Curio` for the collection and recording of tree data. David Colman, Senior Arboricultural Officer at EDDC was seeking volunteers to download the Curio app and collect data about trees. It was understood that

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the Council did not have a Tree Warden; however Cllr Gori offered to place the details on Facebook

FROM	DETAILS
David Colman EDDC Senior Arboricultural Officer	Details about Curio App re tree wardens
Alfington Parish Pump	Parish magazine
EDDC	Non domestic rates bills for various Council properties for 2017/18
Sir Hugo Swire	Letter of reply re schools funding
Men`s Shed Ottery	Letter of thanks for grant award
TRIP	Details about Trip Community Transport and the services offered
EDDC	Information about East Devon Villages Plan

17/04/28

TO RECEIVE REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor`s Meetings

Thursday 2nd	Meeting with Claire Wright re Bridge Meeting Force photo campaign
	Heritage Society meeting
Friday 3rd	Neighbourhood Plan (Jo Talbot)
Tuesday 14th	Guide presentation at Scout Hall Chard cyclist
Wednesday 15th	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
Thursday 16th	Neighbourhood Plan Working Group Jos/Phyllis meeting re Information Centre Allotment meeting
Friday 17 th	EDDC Civic Reception
Thursday 30 th	Regeneration meeting (Geoff Pratt)

Councillors Meetings

Cllr Holmes	Meting of PCC
Cllr Gori	FOOL, TIC, Twinning
Cllr Pratt	NHP, Regeneration
Cllr Faithfull	Mens Sheds, Footpaths
Cllr Pang	Feoffees, Regeneration, Skatepark
Cllr Edwards	Chineway Hill Climb, Otter Trail Group

17/04/29

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

- i. Cllr Pang wished to thank the Council for inviting Cllr Twiss to the meeting as she found his talk extremely useful
- ii. Cllr Giles advised that a former Chairman of the Council, Brian Small had recently died and he thought it appropriate that this should be noted in the Minutes.
- iii. It was agreed that the proposed date for the next Council meeting of Tuesday 2nd May be changed to Monday 8th May

Meeting ended at 9.29pm

Mayor's signature: Date:.....

THE NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 8TH MAY 2017 AT 7PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET, OTTERY ST MARY

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